

Atty. Docket No.: P65141US0
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- collecting fractions;
- adjusting the fractions to a salt content of < 25 mM by dialysis or reverse phase HPLC for performing activity tests;
- culturing *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and *E. coli* in the presence of the fractions and selecting fractions which meet the requirement:

$$\frac{BW}{B0} - \frac{EW}{E0} \geq 0.15 \text{ (bifidogenic)}$$

wherein

- BW represents the germ count obtained upon 16 hours of incubation of *Bifidobacterium bifidum* in 50% Elliker broth in the presence of the peptides in a concentration of 200 µg/ml;
- B0 represents the germ count obtained in the control incubation without the peptides;
- EW represents the germ count obtained upon 16 hours of incubation of *E. coli* in 3 g/l tryptic soy broth in the presence of the peptides in a concentration of 200 µg/ml;
- E0 represents the germ count obtained in the control incubation without the peptides; and
- isolation of the peptides contained in this fraction.

14. A peptide having amino acid sequence

R₁-EQLLRLKK-R₂ (SEQ ID NO: 1), R₁-YLEQLRLKKY-R₂ (SEQ ID NO: 2),
R₁-NRQRNILR-R₂ (SEQ ID NO: 3), R₁-YMNGMNRQRNILR-R (SEQ ID NO: 4),
R₁-FQWQRNMRK-R₂ (SEQ ID NO: 5), R₁-HTGLRRTA-R₂ (SEQ ID NO: 6),
R₁-PTAIQNLRK-R₂ (SEQ ID NO: 7), R₁-EVAARARVW-R₂ (SEQ ID NO: 8),

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R_1 -WQRNMRKV- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 9), R_1 -LARTLKRLK- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 10),
 R_1 -YKQKVEKV- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 11), R_1 -LVRYTKKV- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 12),
 R_1 -KYLVEIARR- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 13), R_1 -ARRARVVWCAVG- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 14),
 R_1 -ARRARVVWCAVGE- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 16), R_3 -CIAL- R_4 (SEQ ID NO: 15)

R_2 -CIAL- R_4 (SEQ ID NO: 15)

R_1 -YQRRPAIAINNPYVPRTTYANPAVVRPHAQIPQRQYLPNSHPPTVVRRPNLHPSF- R_2 ,
(SEQ ID NO: 17)

R_1 -GRRRRSVQWCTVSQPEATKFWQRNMRVRGPPVSCIKRDSPIQCIQA- R_2

(SEQ ID NO: 18),

R_1 -GRRRSVQWCAVSQPEATKCFQWQRNMRKVRGPPVSCIKRDSPIQCIQA- R_2 ,

(SEQ ID NO: 19),

R_1 -GRRRRSVQWCAVSQPEATKCFQWQRNMRKVRGPPVSCIKRDSPIQCIQA-R,

(SEQ ID NO: 20),

R_1 -VYQHOKAMPKPWIQPKTKVIPYVRYL- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 21),

R_1 -ARRARVVWAAVG- R_2

(SEQ ID NO: 22),

R_1 -CAVGGGCIAL- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 23),

R_1 -RHTRKYWCRQGARGGCITL- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 24),

wherein

R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are optionally present,

R_1 , R_3 independently represents an amino acid or a peptide containing up to 100 amino acids, and

R_2 , R_4 independently represents CONH₂, an amino acid, or a peptide containing up to 100 amino acids;

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the peptide modified at the N-terminus by amidation, acetylation, sulfation, phosphorylation, glycosylation, or oxidation having bifidogenic properties, or a fragment thereof having bifidogenic properties.

15. The peptide of claim 6 having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, or R_1 -ARRARVWCAVG- R_2 (SEQ ID NO: 14)

R_3 -CIAL- R_4 (SEQ ID NO: 15).

16. A method of obtaining peptides comprising the steps of:

- adding proteases to cow's milk, or human milk, followed by incubation for two hours;
- centrifugation to remove milk fat;
- acidification to a pH of 2.0 with strong acids;
- removing the precipitated proteins;
- application of at least one reverse phase HPLC step;
- application of a cation-exchange HPLC step;
- collecting fractions;
- adjusting the fractions to a salt content of < 25 mM by dialysis or reverse phase HPLC for performing activity tests;
- culturing *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and *E. coli* in the presence of the fractions and selecting fractions which meet the requirement:

$$\frac{BW}{B0} - \frac{EW}{E0} \geq 0.15 \text{ (bifidogenic)}$$

wherein

- BW represents the germ count obtained upon 16 hours of incubation of *Bifidobacterium bifidum* in 50% Elliker broth in the presence of the peptides in a concentration of 200 μ g/ml;